

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 PM-09 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 USIA-12 TRSE-00

MBFR-03 SAJ-01 DODE-00 SS-15 NSC-10 OMB-01 EB-11 /137 R

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R 252206 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 078077

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, MT, NATO

SUBJECT: MALTA - SPECIAL PAYMENTS

REF: (A) VALLETTA 777; (B) VALLETTA 786 (NOTAL);
(C) USNATO 2010

1. WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO CIRCULATING GOM APRIL 21 LETTER,
OR TO FOLLOWING COURSE RECOMMENDED BY AMBASSADOR GETZ IF
ALLIED CONSENSUS FAVORS. TWO POINTS DO CONCERN US, ONE OR
BOTH OF WHICH MAY HAVE TO BE FOUGHT OUT WHEN OTHER SHOE
DROPS SOMETIME PRIOR TO OCTOBER SPECIAL PAYMENT.

2. FIRST IS THAT TOTAL US SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION FOR 1973
LIKELY BE IN NEIGHBORHOOD \$682,000 (BASING FINAL 3- MONTH
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INSTALLMENT ON CURRENT RATE OF DOLLARS 2.48 TO POUND). THIS WOULD BE \$188,000 SHORT OF JANUARY ESTIMATE. GIVEN GOM PROCLIVITY FOR REGARDING JANUARY ESTIMATES AS CONSTITUTING PROMISED AMOUNTS, AND APPARENT UNHAPPINESS WITH MUCH SMALL DISCREPANCY IN JANUARY- SEPTEMBER FIGURES, WE CAN EXPECT RECRIMINATIONS IN OCTOBER OVER US CONTRIBUTION.

3. SECOND AND MORE SERIOUS POINT IS THINLY- VEILED THREAT TO UK- MALTA AGREEMENT IF SPECIAL- PAYMENT CONTRIBUTORS DO NOT COME UP WITH AMOUNTS GOM ADJUDGES SUFFICIENT. FACT IS THAT AGREEMENT PROMISES GOM 14 MILLION POUNDS PER YEAR. THAT AMOUNT IS BEING PAID. SPECIAL- PAYMENT CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES HAVE AGREED TO MAKE CERTAIN ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS OUTSIDE AGREEMENT FOR 1973. APRIL 21 LETTER STATEMENT ABOUT BEING UNABLE TO VOUCHSAFE VALIDITY OF AGREEMENT QUOTE IF MONETARY POLICIES OF THE VARIOUS STATES PAYING FOR THOSE FACILITIES UNDERMINE ITS CONTENTS UNQUOTE IS SIMPLY NEW GOM EFFORT ENSURE DEVALUATION COMPENSATION BY INVOLVING ALLIES DIRECTLY IN UK- GOM AGREEMENT, AND SETTING UP NEW PRETEXT BREAK AGREEMENT IF UK AND ALLIES DO NOT COME ACROSS WHEN MINTOFF NEXT DEMANDS IT.

4. USNATO SHOULD CONVEY FOREGOING THOUGHTS WHEN SUBJECT DISCUSSED. IN SUMMARY, WE ARE WILLING PLAY ALONG IN SILENCE FOR TIME BEING IF THIS IS ALLIED PREFERENCE, BUT ARE UNDER NO ILLUSION THAT THIS WILL BUY US MORE THAN A FEW MONTHS GRACE. WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN KNOWING HOW UK VIEWS SITUATION, AS WELL AS ANY IDEAS THEY OR OTHERS HAVE FOR COPING WITH MINTOFF IN NEXT ROUND. ROGERS

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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